


District Councillor Report: Walsham Le Willows Parish Council

December 2023

Local Joint Plan adopted	<p>Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils formally adopted the new Joint Local Plan Part 1, which is the blueprint for future development until 2037. There are a number of updated and new policies relating to housing, economic development, environment and infrastructure. The Councils also agreed the Local Development Framework which is a schedule for the production of several supplementary planning documents as well as the Part 2 of the Joint Local Plan, which will include the strategic site allocations and settlement hierarchy. Details can be found at https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/joint-local-plan.</p> <p>This process combined with the recently adopted Neighbourhood Plan will put residents in a much stronger position with regard to future planning decisions.</p>
Official opening of Gateway 14	<p>The new large warehouse at Gateway 14 has been completed and handed over to The Range, for their main distribution warehouse. It is a high specification building, with a number of sustainability features. Gateway 14 is part of Freeport East, which provides businesses with a range of benefits including tax relief.</p>
Energy Saving improvements in listed buildings	<p>There is currently a consultation about applications for energy saving improvements in listed buildings across the district. The council is considering the relaxation of the current requirement to apply for listed building consent. This would hopefully reduce the bureaucracy and time it takes for owners of listed buildings to make improvements to their properties. The consultation runs until 29th December and can be accessed from the website https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/MUEQAA/</p>
Call for land to support nature recovery	<p>Last week was National Tree Week and MSDC are now working with The Woodland Trust. There is a call for land which could be planted or improved for nature. Of particular interest is land of low agricultural value which is near or close to existing natural habitats, or can help provide green corridors to link them up. MSDC currently has low tree cover so the Council is already actively planting more trees and changing the way that public open spaces are to be managed.</p>
Living Well in Winter Grants	<p>The 'Living Well in Winter' grant has been set up to help local voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations tackle social isolation and address the cost of living issues for some residents. Eligible projects might include after-school clubs, the continuation of warm spaces, subsidised family sports sessions, multi-generational activities, lunch clubs and sessions to help people discover new hobbies.</p>
	<p>The Cosy Homes scheme enables residents to get free installation work done. Please publicise this scheme.</p> <p>https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/warmer-homes-lower-bills-free-insulation-upgrades-in-2m-mid-suffolk-initiative#:~:text=The%20Mid%20Suffolk%20Cosy%20Homes,been%20allocated%20for%20each%20property.</p>

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